

Chieftains Fall to Darlington

The varsity football team opened the 2015 conference season at home against perennial power Darlington and despite playing a pretty good football game lost to the Redbirds by the score of 48-8. The Chieftains were able to move the ball pretty consistently throughout the game but five turnovers would slow the Chieftain attack. Coach Thompson "We did a lot of very good things out there tonight but their size and speed were difficult to handle. With that said we did a very nice job moving the football and if we can clean up some things we are going to become a very dangerous team."

On a very steamy night the Chieftains would start on offense and get off to a quick start, executing the option brilliantly Bradon Roen and Trevor Troxel would rip off runs of thirteen and twelve yards. Unfortunately, on our fifth play Drake Harris would injure his foot and miss the rest of the game. Coach Thompson "Drake has been playing extremely well on both sides of the ball. That really hurt." The Chieftain offense would stall and after a failed fake punt attempt the Redbirds took over. Darlington would strike two plays later on a fifty yard TD run and with the PAT it was 7-0.

On our next possession we would turn the ball over but the defense would turn in a great series led by hard charging defensive end Trevor Johnson we would turn back the Redbirds. Coach Thompson "Great job by the defense. Trevor J. had another great game!"

The Chieftains would put together a great 11- play drive to eat up the rest of the first quarter. Mixing a short passing game and an effective running game we moved deep into Redbirds territory to start the second quarter. On the drive QB Trevor T. did an excellent job of recognizing what Darlington was doing and taking advantage of it. Unfortunately a turnover halted the drive. Moments later a 86- yard TD run and PAT made it 14-0. Coach Thompson "Tough turn of events right there."

On our next possession we put together a 7- play drive as we were able to effectively hit Brady Fox on a couple of nice short pass plays. Coach Thompson "Brady had an excellent game and is going to be a major threat the rest of the season." However, the drive would stall and we would punt. Again Darlington hit the big play this time a 65- yard TD run to make it 21-0.

We would bounce back and finish our next drive going 73-yards on 7- plays to hit pay dirt. The drive was sparked by the relentless effort of Bradon Roen who ran over and around several Redbirds defenders for a 34- yard gain. Coach Thompson " Nobody runs harder then Bradon!" Trevor T. would cap the drive with a 23- yard TD scamper and after Trevor hit Elijah for the two - point conversion it was 21-8. Coach Thompson "Great job by the offensive line. A couple of our guys were outweighed by a 100- pounds but they kept slugging away!"

The Chieftains kept the momentum as Bradon would pounce on the onsides kick to give us the ball back. However a turnover would give the ball back to Darlington. They would then march in for a score and it was 28-8 at half. Coach Thompson " I know what the score says but we played a lot better then it shows. We must eliminate the turnovers and I know we will! "

In the second half the Redbirds would tack on three third quarter TD's to pull out to a 48-8 lead. We would continue to move the ball in the second half twice driving deep into Redbirds territory but both times coming up short. The final 48-8.

Coach Thompson "I thought our team showed great effort and made some big strides despite the score. As we continue to work hard and improve everyday in practice our team's best moments and games are just ahead of us!"

The Chieftains next game is at Iowa-Grant this Friday against the always tough and physical Panthers. Game time 7:00.

Stats

	Riverdale	Darlington
1st Downs.	15	9
Passing Com/Att.	11-20	0-3
Passing Yards.	83	0
Rushing Att/YDS.	35-217	35-432
Total Yards.	300	432

Ind Stats

Passing Trevor T. 11-18-83-yards

Receiving

Brady Fox. 6-53

Elijah Cannon 5-30

Rushing

Bradon Roen 14-125

Trevor T. 11-78

Cody Sperry. 8-8

Caleb Johnson 1-4

Drake Harris 1-2

Defensive Stats

Trevor Troxel: 7 tackles 1 tackle for loss

Caleb Johnson: 7 tackles

Bradon Roen: 7 tackles, 1 fumble recovery

Trevor Johnson: 6 tackles, 3 tackles for loss